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By Your Name

Hanukkah

Hanukkah, or the "Festival of Light," is celebrated by Jews all over the world. Hanukkah celebrates the taking back of the Temple of Jerusalem from the Romans over two thousand years ago. When the Temple was destroyed, the lamp of the Eternal Light, which symbolized the continuation of the Jewish people, was snuffed out. Only enough oil to light the lamp for one day was found. But because of a "miracle," the lamp burned for eight days - enough time for the temple to be rededicated. Hanukkah is celebrated with a menorah - a lamp holding eight candles - to symbolize this miracle. On each of the eight days of Hanukkah, a candle is lit.



<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/december-celebrations>

Game-

http://gamescene.com/The_Hanukkah_Dreidel_game.html

New Year's Day

New Year's Day is observed on January 1, the first day of the year on the modern Gregorian calendar as well as the Julian calendar used in ancient Rome. With most countries using the Gregorian calendar as their main calendar, New Year's Day is the closest thing to being the world's only truly global public holiday, often celebrated with fireworks at the stroke of midnight as the New Year starts.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year's_Day

Christmas

Christmas is always observed on December 25th. Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Decorating houses and yards with lights, putting up Christmas trees, giving gifts, and sending greeting cards have become traditions even for many non-Christian Americans. In the third century, efforts were made to find out the date of the Nativity, but only in the year 336 was the date of the December 25 festival set in commemoration of Jesus' birth. Pope Julius formally selected December 25 as the day of Christmas in 349 A.D.

<http://www.calendar-updates.com/info/holidays/us/christmas.aspx>

Boxing Day

Boxing Day is traditionally a day following Christmas when wealthy people in the United Kingdom would give a box containing a gift to their servants. Today, Boxing Day is better known as a bank or public holiday that occurs on December 26, or the first or second weekday after Christmas Day, depending on national or regional laws. It is observed in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and some other Commonwealth nations.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boxing_Day



